

Applicant : Patrizio Vinciarelli et al.
Serial No. : 09/717,453
Filed : November 21, 2000
Page : 5 of 6

Attorney's Docket No.: 00614-042002 / Brains Div.

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REMARKS

The comments of the applicant below are each preceded by related comments of the examiner (in small, bold type).

3. Claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). Regarding claim 13, AAPA discloses apparatus comprising a power converter (10) having a first circuitry in the form of a switch (20) encapsulated to form to form a first discrete physical unit and connected to response to control information received from second circuitry in the form of a voltage sensor encapsulated in a second discrete physical unit, the two physical units respectively including subparts of a device (22) for conveying control information via a galvanically isolated electromagnetic path (page 1, lines 15 through page 2, line14).

The applicant respectfully disagrees. Independent claim 13 recites, among other things, "first circuitry encapsulated to form a first discrete physical unit ... second circuitry encapsulated to form a second discrete physical unit, the two physical units respectively including subparts of a device." The background of the specification does not disclose and would not have made obvious any circuitry "encapsulated to form a first [or second] discrete physical unit," nor does it disclose and would not have made obvious two discrete physical units respectively including "subparts of a device." To the contrary, the background specifically notes that "the control circuitry typically is formed by mounting discrete electronic components **on the same circuit board** that bears the power conversion parts, or on separate daughter boards which form **an assembly to be mounted on the main power conversion board**" (specification p. 2, ll. 6-11, emphasis added). Mounting the power conversion parts on a single circuit board or having two boards that form one assembly is not (and would not have made obvious) "a first [and second] discrete physical unit," let alone first [and second] circuitry that is "encapsulated to form" the first [and second] discrete physical unit.

Independent claim 13 is patentable for at least these reasons.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 32-39 and 42-47 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

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The applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 32-39 and 42-47 define patentable subject matter. Applicant infers that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 referenced in the above quoted passage was based upon the anticipation rejection of claim 13, and would have been overcome by recasting the dependent claims in independent form. Applicants submit, in view of the above response, that the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection should be withdrawn.

All of the dependent claims are patentable for at least the reasons for which the claims on which they depend are patentable.

Canceled claims, if any, have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Any circumstance in which the applicant has (a) addressed certain comments of the examiner does not mean that the applicant concedes other comments of the examiner, (b) made arguments for the patentability of some claims does not mean that there are not other good reasons for patentability of those claims and other claims, or (c) amended or canceled a claim does not mean that the applicant concedes any of the examiner's positions with respect to that claim or other claims.

Applicant invite the Examiner to call the undersigned attorney regarding this response or any other matter that may help advance the prosecution of this case.

No fees are believed due at this time. Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket no. 00614-042002.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

4/3/6



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